



Information Resources Center  
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## BINATIONAL CENTERS' ACTIVITIES

### BARRANQUILLA

#### **“Picture exposition: Photographies of Tampa City from Jim De Mauro.”**

This exposition was organized along with the “Comite de Ciudades Hermanas de Tampa-Barranquilla” with the purpose of promoting the exchange of artists, in this case photographers from Barranquilla city, NB took this photos of Tampa, while Tampa’s Committee chose the photographer Jim De Mauro who presented 30 photos with different aspects from Tampa city. This activity had the purpose of maintaining good relations between those close cities. The attendance approximately 140 people, also we counted with the presence of the photographer Jim De Mauro during the exposition.

James De Mauro is an Italian American who was born in New York in 1947, His father was called James as well, who was a dedicated photographer who worked with equipment made before the war.

In 1990, at the age of 43, after that his family got bigger, and after he finish his two masters degree, he began seriously accumulate experiences in photography. By the middle of 2005, James began to show his work, since then Tampa bought his pictures. He has presented his work in more than 40 expositions in several



magazine and news papers.

The Tampa exhibition is divided into five sections: section one presents the city, the second one presents the sea; the river and beaches that are around and near Tampa; section three is also called “Ybor’s cigar”, that shows its famous atmosphere connected with the production of cigar, its old streets and its old buildings; the next section represent a little view of “Gasparilla”, version of Tampa’s carnival and finally the last section called “Neighborhood” which represent how its habitants live.

## **“How to create a photographic museum without financial resources”**

This conference was arranged in order to share the photographer's experiences from Tampa, to give the participants ideas of how to fund a photographic museum without financial resources, the presenter exposed of how to fund a museum without funds, no space, and nothing else than an idea of a volunteers funder group that full filled their missions and vision.

Whit the aim to share photographer's experiences from Tampa, planed this conference, that had as objective to give to the participants ideas of how to found a photographic museum whit lack resources. The speaker exposed commentaries of how to found a museum with no founds, no space, and noting else tan an idea of a volunteers founder group that full filled their mission and vision.

## **Used Book Fair**

The George Washington Public Bilingual Library of the Centro Cultural Colombo Americano – Barranquilla will hold versión No. 27 of “The Used Book Fair” from the 20-25 of April. As usual, previous months before the fair, the Library collects and selects books donated by the users of the library, members, personnel and students from our Binational Center. Also donations provided by the schools, universities, libraries, and book stores of Barranquilla. Thus, books are organized in different subjects and affordable prices are established for our visitors.



In average, we welcome approximately 1.000 visitors at the Lincoln Gallery, where we annually organize our fair. Our main visitors are students, teachers and children whom will find in both English and Spanish about 2.000 books from diferent subjects such as: literature, culture, stories for children, technology, poetry, fiction, sciences, religion, world enciclopedias and popular magazines such as: Semana, Cambio, People, Vogue, Muscle and Fitness among others.

The Used Book Fair is a very significant and emotive event for us, mainly because we gather and welcome the community in our Binational Center, at the same time we take advantage of this opportunity to promote reading among adults and especially children who will forge the future of Colombia. Throughout this activity we also raise funds to purchase new books for our library, which is another way to contribute to enrich the culture of our city offering updated and new books to our community

## Conversation Club



We are pleased to announce that our new Multimedia and Internet Room has been open since December 12th, 2008 and that it is available at our annex building of the Colombo Americano in Barranquilla. The Multimedia and Internet room has provided students with great support for over 15 years. Thinking about their needs and the great benefit they get from it whenever they need to reinforce their knowledge and develop their linguistic skills, (listening, speaking, reading and writing), we decide to build a new room twice as big and with twice as many computers of the latest Apple technology, which have two operative systems (Windows and Macintosh), all this is available for Colombo Americano students

and the general public in Barranquilla. The new Multimedia room offers excellent interactive material packages as well as a wide database of web pages, our students can access in order to do real time exams. Furthermore, we have over 230 audiobooks and a collection of 250 movies in a videoteque especially selected to assist our students in their English learning process in a large, comfortable and friendly atmosphere with a highly qualified personnel always present at the room to guide our students.

With the aim of stimulating our students and strengthening their communicative skills, our Center with the Multimedia and Internet Room staff (Mónica Zapata and María Estela Puentes) has created a Triple "C" (Colombo Communication Club) Conversational Club. This English conversation club is at no cost and for the benefit of our students, both teachers and some advanced students have volunteered to guide and coordinate the different activities which are full of fun and energy. The conversation club sessions will revolve around daily life and public interest topics, using tools and materials



from the Multimedia and Internet room, this making our conversation club something fun and with a different atmosphere for our students. This club is intended for them to be able to reinforce their vocabulary and grammar and feel at ease speaking English with one another. The sessions will last one hour and will be held twice a week. Who is eligible for these sessions? Basic, intermediate and upper intermediate students can attend them from Monday to Friday between 3:00 and 6:00 p.m. all this has been scheduled in such a manner that our students can organize their time and practice their English.



## ARMENIA

### Outreach Activities

On March 28 and 29, 2009, the Education USA Advising Center at BNC ARMENIA conducted an outreach activity with high school students of the Educational Institution CASD, affiliated with the Secretary of Education of the municipality of Armenia. More than 600 students were informed on the procedures and requirements to pursue undergraduate studies in the United States.



In addition, CASD students were informed on the United States Students Achievers Program whose purpose is to assist highly talented, economically disadvantaged students to negotiate and finance the application and financial aid process for admission to higher education in the United States. Also, the Opportunity Grant Program of the United States Department of State, which is represented by support for talented international students to cover the upfront costs of seeking higher education in the United States. These two programs are part of the Education USA's broad range of assistance to International students worldwide.



FOTOS JOHN JOLMES CARDONA NÚÑEZ, LA CRÓNICA DIGITAL  
Alba Lucelly Valencia, Nancy Velásquez, Yolanda Zamorano, Aminta Rodríguez, Noralba Marín, Ana María Rodríguez, Yanet Colorado, Lucero Valencia Montoya, Rosalba Vanegas y María Isabel Ordóñez.



Laura Vanessa Valencia, Alexandra Montoya, Valentina Rendón, María Alejandra Rivera, Carolina Rivera e Infrida Ojeda.

### Women

Last march 11th, due to the opening of our new branch in Calarca, Quindio. There was a presentation of an art show named "Mujeres por el Arte" throughout which our institution highlighted the remarkable cultural support that women in our department do to the artistic growth of our region.

## Children's Day

In recognition to our students, last April 25th took place the celebration of the Child Day. All the BNC Teens and child students were involved in the activities like the "Circuito de Observación" and the artistic show that were held at the BNC.



## CARTAGENA

### Colombo Song Festival Contest



The Centro Colombo Americano in Cartagena, as part of its community outreach program, has extended an invitation to all who have graphic design and artistic talent to participate in the contest (name of contest ???) The winning design will serve as the official poster for the Colombo Song Festival in 2009.

We invite all educational institutions in the city to participate in this important event by registering their representatives in our downtown branch, on Calle de la Factoria, or our branch in Los Cuatro Vientos.

The winner will receive a scholarship to study English at the Centro Cultural Colombo Americano





## MANIZALES

### Teachers & Technology

Teachers at the Centro Colombo Americano in Manizales were excited to have new classrooms that are now equipped with computers, Internet, and data projectors. The two classrooms are part of a long-term plan to provide more access to technology for both teachers and students at the Colombo. The teachers, who have been working for five months with English Language Fellow Erin Lowry on ways to incorporate technologies into their classes, also discussed how to use new multimedia resources that the Colombo has purchased with a grant from the US Embassy.



As a part of their action plan for integrating technology and language learning, teachers are taking the initiative to use these new materials, which include graded readers with audio, video, and computer-based activities, and an extensive collection of music and films. In addition, teachers have been compiling and sharing activities, lesson plans, and online resources through an institution-wide wiki <http://colombotech.pbwiki.com>

### Visit from Library Outreach Specialist, Maria Gentle

On May 26 and 27, 2009, the Centro Colombo Americano in Manizales will host **Maria Gentle**, a specialist in youth services at Arlington Central Library in Washington, D.C., as a part of “The BNC Library: Beyond the Walls” project. Ms. Gentle will give various workshops, all focusing on the idea of a library being more than just a physical space with books, but also as an outreach service. Participants will learn what outreach means, examine strategies to create and plan outreach services, and see examples of successful programming. Librarians from the other BNCs, as well as from different libraries in the region will be in attendance.

## John F. Kennedy Library Launches “Improving Bilingual Standards through Multimedia” Programming

In the month of May, the Colombo will launch a new program, “Improving Bilingual Standards through Multimedia,” to promote new multimedia materials acquired through a grant from the US Embassy. These materials, which include a wide selection of music, movies, and teaching resources that reflect various aspects of American culture, will be presented to the community through a series of workshops, presentations, and visits to local schools. The program seeks to promote understanding, tolerance and outreach to the United States and its opportunities.

In its first phase, workshops will focus on introducing public school teachers to the multimedia collection in order to encourage them to use the new materials and incorporate it into their daily class activities. Short cultural presentations are planned for groups of students at various public schools, as well as open houses at the John F. Kennedy library to introduce students, parents, teachers, and members of the education, musical, and art communities to the available resources. The “Improving Bilingual Standards through Multimedia” project strives to accomplish the mission of the BNC by offering the best multicultural and bilingual environment to the community through access to the language and culture.



## Pilot for Manizales Bilingue at BNC



The BNC in Manizales, in conjunction with *Fundacion Luker*, and the Secretary of Education, is developing a pilot program towards the first level of bilingualism at ENAE, one of the biggest public schools in Manizales. This project is part of the Manizales Bilingue Program, which aims to strengthen teacher and student competencies in English as a foreign language to help provide better opportunities in education and the workplace.

There are three main components to this project: (1) All primary school teachers from this school, ESCUELA NACIONAL DE ENFERMERIA (ENAE), are being trained in English at the Colombo. By the end of this year they will have completed 640 hours and will have reached a B1+ level according to the Common European Framework. (2) All high school English teachers in this school have been placed at their corresponding level in our English Program and they will achieve, by November of 2009, a B2 level in the CEF. These teachers will participate in the TEFL Certificate Course by June, 2010. (3) Some strategies are being implemented to reinforce English practice among students at the school, such as a full-time native speaker helping students and their English teachers with the communicative part of the language. In addition, some English teaching resources were provided to the school library along with workshops related to the use of technology and the reading process in the English classroom.

## CALI

### Languages Day Reading Club

In order to celebrate Languages Day, the theme of the Reading club held April 24th was Myths and Legends from the U.S., Canada, Taiwan and Colombia. Representatives from each country read myths or legends from their countries to the club attendees.



*Jessica Maring tells the creation legend of the Apache Indians*



*Carla Hung telling students a Taiwanese myth called "The Tigress Witch"*



## Earth Day, April 22

At the Buga Branch of the Colombo Americano de Cali, we wanted to make our students aware of the need to do their part to save our planet. The different classes each made a poster showing their ideas on the subject. We were pleasantly surprised, not only by the seriousness of their ideas and their creativity, but also by how enthusiastic they were about the project



## MEDELLIN

### The United States Ambassador and the Minister of Culture visited the Colombo



The United States Ambassador for Colombia, William Brownfield, and the Minister of Culture, Paula Marcela Moreno, visited the Colombo Americano last March 10th. They met with the group of young Afro-Colombian fellows from the *Martin Luther King Program* and the Ambassador also spent some time with the high school students from the *Creating New Opportunities through English Program*. The students had the chance to share their experiences in the programs and their life expectations regarding the learning of a new language with these renowned visitors.

## Security Workshop for the Protection of Cultural Heritage



The Centro Colombo Americano, with the support of the Department of State, the United States Embassy, and the Colombian Ministry of Culture held the workshop *Security Evaluation and Planning at Cultural Heritage Sites* which ran from March 13th to the 19th. Two specialists in the area, the American Arthur Kingsbury and Bolivian Freddy Riveros, were in charge of this workshop. The main objective of the workshop was to provide people with basic security measures and technological use to protect cultural heritage sites in Latin America, which are currently being threatened by robberies and plundering.

Thirty people attended the event which took place at the *Museo Universitario* at the *Universidad de Antioquia*.

## Adopt a Community through English Language Teaching and

Last March 30th, the closing ceremony of the Adopt a Community through English Language Teaching and Training Program was held at the Centro Colombo Americano. This program benefited sixteen teachers from several public educational institutions in the ninth commune of Medellin.

The program was sponsored by the United States Embassy and was organized by the Centro Colombo Americano Medellin. Its aim was to offer participants an alternative to improve the quality of English teaching at public schools in the city.



## Third International Seminar of Contemporary Art and Social Development

The third version of the International Seminar of Contemporary Art and Social Development *Redesearte Paz* took place last March 19th. This event benefited from the participation of representatives in the fields of arts and culture, who came from several countries belonging to the *Redesearte Paz* project: Brazil, Chile, Spain, Nicaragua, and Colombia. Venezuela and Argentina also participated in the event as they will join the project this year.

*Redesearte Paz* has been established as a cultural network which has the sole objective of approaching social issues such as displacement, childhood, and socio-cultural diversity, among others, from the perspective of arts and community life.

Some of the topics of this meeting were: *arts practices, education, community and society, strategies for building networks, the power of the word, the creation of spaces for reflection and participation*, among others. Four hundred and sixteen people attended the event.



## Kinetoscopio Magazine Launches its 85th Issue



The Kinetoscopio Magazine launched its issue number 85 in the framework of the *Cartagena Cinema Festival* last March 3rd. The director Lisandro Alonso – one of the most important new figures in the Latin American independent cinema - participated in the event.

The magazine devoted several pages from this new edition to the centenary of producer, scriptwriter and director Joseph Leo Mankiewicz remembering some of his most important films. In this issue, you can also find reviews of the latest films featured in the box office.